



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports that the oil-tanker terminal in Valdez, AK, has been temporarily closed at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard. (See item [2](#))
- The New York Times reports that British and Mexican airline officials canceled two flights to the United States after receiving warnings from authorities that linked the flights to possible terrorist attacks. (See item [12](#))
- The Edmonton Journal reports Canadian food safety investigators have established a tentative link between an Edmonton rendering plant and North America's two cases of mad cow disease. (See item [18](#))
- Web User reports anti-virus company Panda Software has warned net users to watch out for a new virus, a worm called Jitux.A, which is spread via MSN Messenger. (See item [26](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 31, Reuters* — **Cook 2 nuke shut.** American Electric Power Co. said its 1,090 megawatt Cook 2 nuclear unit in Michigan automatically tripped on Tuesday, December 30, the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in an event report on Wednesday, December

31. The company said the unit tripped from 100 percent power due to low steam generator level coincident with feed flow less than steam flow. The company is investigating the cause of the event, but suspected that unplanned closure of the steam generator 2 and 3 feedwater isolation valves led to the initiating signal. The unplanned closure could be related to some work being done by some plant workers. Additionally, the company said it had to manually trip the main generator due to sticking of the main stop valve which is also being investigated. The Cook station is located Bridgman, MI, about 80 miles east of Chicago, IL.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/031231/utilities_aep_cook_1.html

2. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Alaska tanker terminal closed.** With the nation on elevated terror alert, the oil-tanker terminal in Valdez, AK, has been temporarily closed at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard. Tanker loading was suspended Tuesday, December 30, and remained closed Wednesday, said Mike Heatwole, a spokesman for Alyeska Service Pipeline, operator of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. **Tankers load Prudhoe Bay oil destined for the Lower 48 at Valdez, the end of the 800-mile pipeline, which carries 17 percent of the nation's domestic oil supply.** Last week, security was beefed up in the Prince William Sound community after U.S. officials said al Qaeda operatives could target remote sites such as oil facilities in Alaska. Officials also said then they could not corroborate a report about an al Qaeda threat against the Valdez oil terminal. Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Carter of the Coast Guard said the closure was "further example of prudent maritime security measures" instituted as a result of the heightened security threat. **After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Alaska disaster officials identified the pipeline as the only real terrorist target that could have national implications.** There are 18 storage tanks in Valdez with a capacity to hold 9.1 million barrels of oil.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001827641_valdez01m.html

3. *December 31, Reuters* — **Oil prices averaged highest in twenty years. Instability in oil producing nations like Iraq, Venezuela and Nigeria helped boost U.S. crude oil prices to an average of \$31 a barrel in 2003, the highest yearly average in more than 20 years,** energy experts said on Wednesday, December 31. The strong prices have been a headache to consumers who shelled out big bucks for gasoline, heating oil and other fuels, and have been blamed for slowing the recovery in the U.S. economy. U.S. benchmark oil prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange futures market averaged \$30.98 a barrel in 2003, up 19 percent from the average in 2002. The price was the highest since 1982, when average benchmark oil prices came within striking distance of \$32 a barrel. **The high cost of petroleum came in a year when the United States relied on a record amount of foreign crude oil for its energy needs, accounting for 62.9 percent of what it consumed,** according to the Department of Energy. Analysts said they expected oil prices to remain strong into next year despite forecasts of a seasonal decline in global petroleum demand.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45031-2003Dec_31.html

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Chemical Sector

4. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Area evacuated after chemical leak in Pawtucket.** Fire officials temporarily evacuated a neighborhood Wednesday, after a chemical reaction at a fabric

printing company released a noxious cloud in the area. Pawtucket, RI, police spokesman Detective Lt. John Clarkson said sodium hydroxide and hydrogen peroxide were accidentally mixed at Slater Dye Works, Inc., located on School St. The mixing produced a noxious cloud at the plant around 7:30 a.m. Officials evacuated the plant and four or five streets in the surrounding neighborhood. Clarkson said the driver of the truck delivering one of the chemicals and two plant workers were taken to a local hospital after getting the chemicals on their skin. **Clarkson described the cloud as "caustic." He said it left a white residue on cars and properties in the area. He said the cloud that was released was not dangerous once in the open air, but advised residents to wash the residue off their cars with water.** Some chemicals spilled into the nearby Blackstone River, Clarkson said. Clarkson said investigators have determined the **mishap occurred when a delivery truck dumped sodium hydroxide into an outdoor tank containing hydrogen peroxide.** The mixing of the chemicals caused a plume to form, Clarkson said, which floated into the brick and concrete building along the river and drifted into the neighborhood.

Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-31114936.apds.m0826.bc-ct--chemdec31.0.6467282.story?coll=hc-headlines-local-wire>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 31, Government Computer News* — **DISA awards equipment contracts for global grid.** The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) awarded four indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity hardware and software equipment contracts on Tuesday, December 30, for the Global Information Grid-Bandwidth Expansion project (GIG-BE). Over the past several months, DISA and the prime GIG-BE contractor, considered more than 55 proposals in the four equipment areas for the project. **GIG-BE is a worldwide, ground-based switched optical network with 10-Gbps OC-192 or faster connections that will serve Department of Defense users at roughly 100 sites around the globe.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24527-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 30, Reuters* — **Protesting Argentine workers damage foreign banks.** Several hundred bank employees marched on foreign banks in Argentina on Tuesday, December 30, smashing windows, exploding smoke bombs and throwing eggs in protest at what they said were unpaid wage rises. **It was the worst violence against foreign-owned banks since an economic crash last year when many branches were forced to board up after they became the focus of Argentine ire against a government-ordered freeze of billions of dollars in savings.** A stream of foreign bank employees, shouting "strike, strike," broke windows at Banco Frances, one of Argentina's biggest banks controlled by Spanish banking giant BBVA. Once inside, they emptied files and threw hundreds of documents onto the floor. The protesters also turned on the U.S.-based Citibank, throwing eggs at the boarded-up bank and exploding a smoke bomb by the main entrance. They also briefly occupied branches of

Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro and the U.S.-based FleetBoston Financial Corp. Demonstrators have called on the banks to comply with a government decree published earlier this year to increase their wages by USD\$76.27 a month.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?storyID=4058731>

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Transportation Sector

7. *December 31, CNN* — **Another man found dead in jet's wheel well at JFK.** A man was found dead Tuesday night, December 30, in the wheel well of a plane at JFK Airport, authorities said. Jim Peters with the FAA told CNN the body was found hidden in the wheel well of a British Airways jet at about 7 p.m., was immediately removed and taken to the medical examiners office. The dead man "was only wearing shoes and pants with some Nigerian currency in his pants pocket," a law enforcement official involved in the investigation said. "The plane was in Lagos, Nigeria, on Christmas Eve, and we believe the man climbed into the wheel well while it was in Nigeria." Port Authority spokesman Tony Ciavolella said the Boeing 747 flew into JFK from Heathrow Airport in London earlier in the day — British Airways Flight 177. **Tuesday night's incident marks the second time in less than a week that a body has been discovered in the wheel well of a plane landing at JFK. On Christmas Day, the body of a Jamaican man was found on an American Airlines flight from Jamaica.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Northeast/12/31/plane.death/index.html>

8. *December 31, The Trucker* — **Security plan for Hazmat shipments outlined.** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration published a Hazmat shipments guide. Security plans are now required by the U.S. Department of Transportation in its HM-232 rule with a systematic approach to transportation security and a specific focus on potential terrorist or criminal threats. Hazmat materials are frequently transported in large quantities, and once mobile they become particularly vulnerable to theft, interception, detonation or release, according to the guide. **According to the guide, the assumed agenda of terrorists is to convert the material, package or vehicle into a weapon.** For a complete look at the hazmat security guide visit http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetyprogs/hm/Security_Plan_Guide.htm

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/12_03/1231_hazmat_guide.htm

9. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Woman tries to choke air marshal.** A woman allegedly tried to choke a federal air marshal after she became disruptive on a flight from Pittsburgh to Minneapolis, authorities said. **The air marshal approached the woman, who was allegedly intoxicated, vocal and obnoxious aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 1057 on Tuesday, December 30,** Transportation Security Administration spokesperson Jennifer Marty said. After the woman continued to be disruptive, she tried to choke the marshal in a later exchange, Marty said. She also kicked the marshal in the groin and bit a law enforcement officer after she was escorted off the plane, Marty said. The flight landed at 8:30 p.m. at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport with the woman in handcuffs. She was led off the plane by police and placed in federal custody. Metropolitan Airports Commission spokesman Patrick Hogan said he wasn't sure if the woman was served alcohol on the plane. The woman could face federal charges of assault or interfering with a flight crew, he said.

Source: <http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?id=8275&siteSection=1>

10. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Pilots, flight attendants want clearinghouse for information on events. Pilot and flight attendants' unions want the government to create a central clearinghouse for information about unusual events in the aviation system so possible patterns can be detected. "We'd like all reports of unusual events to be going directly to the government for analysis," said Chris Witkowski, director of air safety and health for the Association of Flight Attendants.** Stephen McHale, the deputy administrator for the Transportation Security Administration, said the agency already has a process that encourages reporting of unusual incidents. Company security departments pass along information about possible terror probes reported by pilots and flight attendants, and the TSA sends it to the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, which was created to bring together information gathered by the CIA, FBI and other agencies, McHale said. But a recent report by the Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, a private philanthropic organization, said the center has not yet put in place "the necessary staff or framework for analyzing information and sharing it broadly." Others say airline security departments probably are too overburdened to collect and analyze daily reports from pilots and flight attendants.

Source: <http://www.theworldlink.com/articles/2003/12/31/news/news13.txt>

11. *December 30, Department of Transportation* — **New trucking hours-of-service rule begins Sunday.** Department of Transportation officials today released details of a plan to educate truck drivers about and to enforce a new hours-of-service rule. Starting January 4, when the rule is implemented, state and federal officials expect to spend the first 60 days waging an aggressive education campaign and enforcing egregious violations. The education and enforcement plans have been designed to ensure long-term compliance and understanding of the safety rule. **The new hours-of-service rule represents the first major rewrite of the hours-of-service regulations in more than 60 years.** It synchronizes the commercial drivers, work and rest schedule better with the body's circadian rhythm to reduce fatigue and save lives. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will ask states to write warnings instead of citations for all but flagrant violations. State officials are also being encouraged to use every stop in the first 60 days as an opportunity to educate drivers about the new rules. **The new rules allow long haul drivers to drive 11 hours after 10 consecutive hours off duty. Similarly, truckers may not drive after being on duty for 60 hours in a seven-consecutive-day period or 70 hours in an eight-consecutive-day period.**

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fmcsa2703.htm>

12. *January 01, New York Times* — **Two flights to U.S. canceled in wake of terror concerns.** British and Mexican airline officials canceled two flights to the United States—one on New Year's Day and another on New Year's Eve—after receiving warnings from American and British authorities that linked the flights to possible terrorist attacks, government and airline officials said Thursday, January 1. American officials also raised concerns about two other flights earlier this week, temporarily diverting one flight from Mexico on Monday and interviewing passengers on another flight from Britain after it landed at Dulles International Airport outside of Washington on Wednesday evening. **None of the passengers on any of the flights were arrested, officials say, but the incidents reflect the government's increasingly aggressive efforts to protect American airspace in the wake of renewed terrorist threats. In recent days, officials say, American fighter jets have accompanied some flights as they**

landed in the United States and officials have begun requiring some airlines to fly with armed marshals. "We have received credible threat information about particular flight routes throughout the past couple of weeks and have worked with our international partners to ensure that security measures are put in place," Brian Roehrkasse of the Department of Homeland Security said Thursday.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/01/international/01CND-TERR.html?ex=1073624400&en=138e6e8bc8c0bf8b&ei=5062&partner=GOOGLE>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *December 30, South Florida Sun Sentinel* — **Letter threatening FedEx planes probed. FBI agents are investigating a letter that threatened danger to FedEx airplanes, possibly in the Fort Lauderdale area, FBI officials said Monday.** The FBI office in Miami said they learned of the letter Monday, but the FBI would not comment on the specifics of its content. The letter apparently originated in Memphis, TN, where the company is headquartered, and included remarks that FedEx airplanes could be in danger, said Beverly Esselbach, a spokesperson with the FBI in Miami.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-cfedex30dec30.0.6442380.story?coll=sfla-news-sfla>

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Agriculture Sector

14. *December 31, Reuters* — **Taiwan says ducks smuggled from China had bird flu. Taiwan reported its first case of a highly contagious bird flu Wednesday, but said six ducks smuggled from mainland China which had tested positive had been destroyed.** The cabinet's Council of Agriculture said it was closely monitoring the situation to prevent avian influenza, which in rare cases can be deadly to humans, from spreading in Taiwan. "The ducks have been destroyed. They were not sold to the market or entered into any local farms," the council said in a statement. **The ducks, smuggled from China and found on the water near Taiwan's frontline island of Quemoy earlier this month, were infected with the H5N1 flu virus which hit Hong Kong in 1997, it said.** Smuggling of people and goods across the narrow Taiwan Strait is rampant. In South Korea, about half of the target of one million chickens and ducks had been slaughtered and buried after an outbreak of bird flu. The bird flu outbreak has hit chicken and duck restaurants and halted South Korea's modest poultry exports to Japan, Hong Kong, and China.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=4060612>

15. *December 30, Federal Computer Week* — **USDA to deploy "mad cow" system. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tuesday announced plans to develop an enterprise architecture for a national system for tracking animals, which would make it easier to cut off the spread of the potentially devastating mad cow disease.** For the last 18 months, USDA has been working on an identification system for cattle and other animals. But the urgency for a

national animal identification system erupted last week when a cow in Washington State was identified with having the disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Ron DeHaven, USDA's chief veterinarian, said the USDA has been working with state agencies and private industry to develop a "comprehensive identification system that will focus on electronic identification entered into an electronic system that would very rapidly trace animals."

Source: <http://fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1229/web-usda-12-30-03.asp>

16. *December 30, Reuters* — **Canada tracing animals in U.S. mad cow case. Canada is searching for about 20 Holstein cattle that may be related to an animal that tested positive for mad cow disease in Washington state last week, a veterinary official said Tuesday.** U.S. officials have said they believe the cow came from an Alberta farm that exported most of the 82 adult members of its herd in 2001. But about 20 younger animals stayed in Canada, said George Luterbach of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. **Officials said they are not prepared to confirm the infected cow was born in Canada until they get results back from DNA testing, expected later this week.** "We have not quarantined any animals insofar as we have not confirmed that this case has come from Canada," Luterbach said. "We have no suggestion that we have high risk animals here," he added.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/newswire/2003/12/30/rtr1194154.html>

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Food Sector

17. *December 31, Agricultural Research Service* — **Quicker tests identify E. coli strains.** New tests that more quickly identify dangerous strains of Escherichia coli bacteria are being developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. ARS microbiologist Pina M. Fratamico is working with Pennsylvania State University to develop tests that quickly identify E. coli strains. **Currently, scientists commonly use a procedure called serotyping to distinguish between different types of E. coli. However, this procedure is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Fratamico, with her team is developing both conventional and real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.** These chemical procedures generate enough of a bacterium's genetic material so that it can be studied and identified. With one real-time PCR reaction, four products can be amplified simultaneously and detected in "real time" as they multiply. **Scientists have little information about some individual E. coli serogroups; therefore, the number of diseases these organisms cause is likely underestimated.** According to Fratamico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service has expressed interest in the new PCR tests for detection and confirmation of not only E. coli O157:H7, but of other E. coli strains as well.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

18. *December 31, Edmonton Journal* — **Edmonton plant, U.S. mad cow may be linked.** Canadian food safety investigators have established a tentative link between an Edmonton rendering plant and North America's two cases of mad cow disease. The city plant may have provided contaminated materials to feed mills which mixed feed for both the Holstein at the center of the current U.S. mad cow investigation and the Saskatchewan birthplace of a diseased cow from northern Alberta discovered in May. The mixing of the

contaminated feed would have occurred before August 1997, when both Canada and the U.S. banned feeding cattle parts to cattle. The rendering plant complied with the ban when it took effect but until then, it produced the same protein meal for hogs and cattle as was done by similar plants throughout North America. "Right now, it's possible that the feed both for this cow and the one found in May contained materials from one rendering plant in the Edmonton area," said Tom Spiller of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, who is heading the investigation into feed sources of both animals. **If the link is proven, it would rule out the United States as the feed source for either cow with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.** Spiller said it's impossible to absolutely confirm the source of contaminated feed a cow ate because farmers don't keep records of exactly what feed goes to what cow.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/story.asp?id=1BA92170-6D04-4E78-AA99-0E21095B9D07>

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Water Sector

19. *December 31, Water Tech Online* — Florida water transfer case may impact West. A pumping operation near Florida's Everglades is causing apprehension on the West Coast. **Water managers in a number of Western states worry that a U.S. Supreme Court case involving the pumping project could greatly complicate, if not limit, the region's massive water diversions by making them subject to federal pollution regulations.** Last year, in a lawsuit filed by the Miccosukee Indian Tribe of Florida, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit upheld a lower court ruling that the Florida pumping operation needed a Clean Water Act discharge permit because it was piping water laced with phosphorus and other pollutants into the Everglades. **The South Florida Water Management District, which runs the pumping station, argued that it was not the source of the contamination and was simply transferring water.** The solicitor general's office in its September Supreme Court brief said that Congress had never intended that facilities merely transferring water should have to obtain pollution permits. **"Basically all our water is transferred," Jeffrey Kightlinger, general counsel of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which imports massive quantities of water from northern California and the Colorado River basin.**

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=45178

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Public Health Sector

20. *December 30, CNN* — Anthrax vaccine declared safe. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tuesday declared the anthrax vaccine "safe and effective" in response to a federal judge's injunction against mandatory vaccinations of what he said was an experimental drug. The anthrax vaccine is routinely administered to U.S. military personnel. The FDA said its "final rule and order" is that the vaccine is "safe and effective for the prevention of anthrax disease, regardless of the route of exposure." The FDA also cited an independent review of the vaccine by the Institute of Medicine, which concluded that it was safe. U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ruled December 22 that the Department of Defense must stop forcing

soldiers and civilian employees to get the anthrax vaccine, saying the vaccine is an experimental drug not licensed by the FDA. **In its Tuesday statement, the FDA said its final rule on the vaccine makes "it clear that the FDA does not regard the approved anthrax vaccine as investigational for protection against inhalation anthrax."**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/12/30/fda.anthrax/>

21. *December 30, Associated Press* — **Flu outbreak tests new federal law limiting release of medical information. Arkansas health officials are limiting what they will say about deaths from the current flu outbreak, citing a new federal medical privacy law.** At least one other state, Iowa, is taking a similar hard line on its interpretation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The law, which took effect in April, requires health providers, insurance companies, and pharmacies to limit disclosures of patient medical information. This flu season is the first time since HIPAA began that states are being forced to navigate the letter of the law while still warning the public about a serious health threat. When Arkansas announced three flu deaths among its 2.8 million residents on December 5, after Colorado reported it had discovered six deaths among children, it wouldn't say whether the victims were young. After consultation with its lawyers, it added only that the deaths involved adults. In Iowa, state doctors wouldn't list the hometown of a 1-year-old who died of the flu and wouldn't say how long the child was ill, when it died or, whether it had had a flu shot. **Most states have taken the position that the public is helped by the release of more information, such as the risk factors in those most seriously affected.**

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/7600549.htm>

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Government Sector

22. *December 31, Associated Press* — **U.S. boosts Canadian border patrol by 340. U.S. authorities over the course of 2003 added more than 340 agents to patrol the border with Canada to help keep out terrorist weapons, drugs and illegal immigrants, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection said Wednesday.** That brought the total to roughly 1,000 agents who are now working the northern border, the bureau said. Since the September 11, 2001, terror attacks "we have tripled the size of our Border Patrol work force operating ... on the northern border," said the bureau's commissioner, Robert Bonner. "The increased staffing of these Border Patrol agents will augment our ability to prevent penetration of our borders by potential terrorists," Bonner said. The bureau is housed in the Department of Homeland Security.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-brf-border-buildup.0.2389726.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headlines>

23. *December 30, Federal Computer Week* — **US-VISIT pilot rolls on.** The pilot project for the foreign visitor tracking system is providing good insights ahead of the official rollout, the program director said. **Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport has been testing the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) since November. The massive entry/exit system will be implemented in 115 airports and 14 seaports January 5, 2004.** "Our pilot is going well," US-VISIT Director Jim Williams said recently. As of mid-December, more than 14,000 people with visas have gone through the

system, which takes a traveler's fingerprints and digital photograph, checking the information against terrorist watch lists and comparing the data with information taken by the State Department at visa issuance. About 40 travelers have gone through the system twice, allowing officials to do a one-to-one check on their identities, Williams said. The pilot is voluntary because a final rule has not been published in the Federal Register, Williams said, adding that most people are agreeing to the procedures.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1229/web-usvisit-12-30-03.asp>

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *December 31, Associated Press* — Stolen dump truck a possible threat. Deland, FL, law enforcement authorities have notified the Department of Homeland Security that a state-owned dump truck has been stolen. The report was made to the federal agency because of the heightened threat level, Lt. Richard Gaylord, a spokesman for the Deland Police Department, said Wednesday, December 31. **One possible fear is that if terrorists stole the truck and packed it with explosives, they would be able to get past a building's security guards without scrutiny because of its state markings.** “Any large vehicle like that could have Homeland Security implications, but there are other possibilities as well,” Gaylord said. “It could be kids joyriding in it. It could be stolen for financial gain to be used on the black market. At this point, we can’t speculate on the exact reason.” The truck, which is used to repair roadway asphalt, was stolen last weekend from a Department of Transportation facility. The driver broke into the truck and then used it to plow through gates. The truck was discovered missing Sunday by a supervisor.

Source: http://www.news-press.com/news/local_state/031231dumptruckup_date.html

25. *December 31, Associated Press* — Security boosted for New Year's Eve. From Times Square to the Las Vegas Strip and California's Rose Parade, police were rolling out unprecedented security measures Wednesday, triggered by a hike in the national terrorism alert to orange, its second-highest level. Armed helicopters were to prowl the Las Vegas Strip, where 300,000 people were anticipated. In New York, workers sealed manhole covers and removed mailboxes to guard against any potential bomb attack in Times Square. More than 750,000 revelers were expected to gather under the guard of counter-sniper teams and seven police helicopters. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said New York City was well-protected. **New York police were focusing more heavily than last year on hotels, landmarks and ferry terminals** as a result of their analysis of anti-American “chatter” culled from the Internet and other sources, police Commissioner Ray Kelly said. Partygoers headed to New York were warned to expect long delays at bridges and tunnels. State troopers will be riding the rails to assist transit police on trains going in and out of New York. In addition, FBI and other federal agents have been sweeping the Las Vegas area for weapons or threats, said Ellen Knowlton, FBI special agent in charge in Las Vegas. The Strip has 74,344 hotel rooms and 18 of the nation's 20 largest hotels.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/National/AP.V4056.AP-New-Years-Secu.html

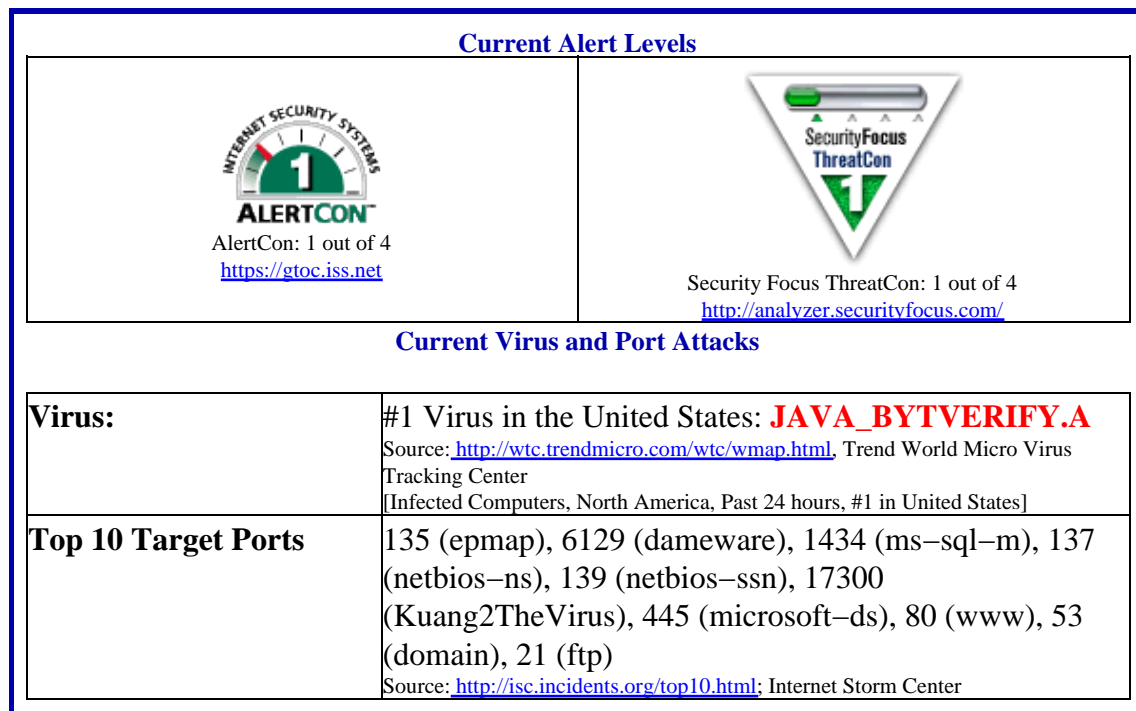
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Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *December 13, Web User* — **MSN virus hits the net.** Anti-virus company Panda Software has warned net users to watch out for a new virus, a worm called Jitux.A, which is spread via MSN Messenger. Jitux.A is an aggressive code that contains a link to the web page <http://www.home.no/jituxramon.exe>. **Once open, the file JITUXRAMON.EXE automatically downloads, infecting your computer. The worm file stores itself in the computer's memory and sends new infected messages every five minutes to all contacts in your Messenger's Contact List.** Users should update their anti-virus patch as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.web-user.co.uk/news/47502.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

27. *December 31, Dow Jones Business News* — **Explosive device neutralized in Tbilisi.** An explosive device was found in the center of Tbilisi, Georgia, near a Marriott hotel two hours before a New Year's Eve show, the Itar-Tass news agency reported Wednesday, December 31. The device was in a plastic bag that was left several meters away from the hotel building. It has been neutralized and exploded in a safe place, Tass reported.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031231/0948000418_1.html

28.

December 31, Associated Press — **Death toll now 36 in China fireworks blast.** The death toll in an explosion at a fireworks factory in China's northeast has risen by seven to 36 and a businessman who set up the factory was ordered arrested, according to official media reports on Wednesday. The factory in the city of Tieling had been operating for just three days when the explosion Tuesday tore apart its two workshops, the Xinhua News Agency said. The cause was under investigation. **Another 44 people were hospitalized with injuries, 18 of them in serious condition, Xinhua said. China's fireworks industry suffers hundreds of deaths every year in fires and explosions. The industry employs thousands of people, often in poor rural areas, who do much of the work by hand.** The death toll has soared this year despite repeated government promises to tighten safety. The number of people killed in officially reported accidents jumped 29 percent in the first nine months of the year to at least 209, though the true death toll probably is much higher. The fatality rate usually surges as producers rush to fill orders for the Lunar New Year, which comes in January. Chinese celebrate by setting off billions of firecrackers.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section Id=17&id=23815>

29. *December 31, Los Angeles Times* — **U.S. moves toward military trials. The Pentagon took a step closer Tuesday to holding military trials for suspected terrorists held at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, appointing a retired Army general to oversee the tribunals and a four-member review panel to hear appeals of cases.** John Altenburg Jr., a former senior Army lawyer and two-star general, was named "appointing authority" for the tribunals. As such, he would approve charges against detainees, refer cases to trial, and negotiate conflicts during trials. None of the 660 terrorist suspects held at Guantánamo Bay has been charged, but the first case is expected soon. **The appointments were the last major procedural steps before suspects are charged in what would be the first U.S. use of military tribunals since World War II.**

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2001826726_tribunals31.html

30. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Philippines to deport two Americans. The Philippines said Tuesday that it would deport two American brothers arrested two weeks ago for suspected dealings with local Muslim militants and charities that authorities say may be fronts for al Qaeda.** One of the brothers formerly worked as a technician at a U.S. nuclear weapons lab. A spokesperson at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,, said Michael Ray Stubbs, 55, arrested with his brother James on December 13 southwest of Manila, worked at the lab as a heating and air-conditioning technician for about 10 years, until 2000. **Philippine Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said that James Stubbs met with members of Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Muslim groups that Philippine officials say loosely cooperate with al Qaeda.** The brothers arrived on tourist visas but carried documents indicating they were soliciting funds for the construction of mosques and Muslim schools. According to Philippine military intelligence reports, James Stubbs left his job as a teacher in California to study Arabic in Sudan. He met in May with several charity groups that authorities suspect are al Qaeda fronts.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43059-2003Dec 30.html>

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